

C. 464

COUNTY OF PEEBLES
AND BURGHS OF
PEEBLES AND INNERLEITHEN

Annual Report

by the

Medical Officer of Health

AND

County Sanitary Inspector

Year 1968





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COUNTY OF PEEBLES
ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT - 1968

ERRATA

Page 2

Measles Vaccination

Page 23

Orthopaedic Service

" 17, 33.

Page 52 - Destruction Methods. - line 10.

For "coumatetraly" read "coumatetralyl".

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STAFF

JOINTLY WITH MIDLOTHIAN COUNTY COUNCIL AND SMALL BURGH AUTHORITIES

Medical Officer of Health:

JOHN RIDDELL, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.

Depute Medical Officer of Health :

*LEWIS F. HOWITT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

†ANDREW F. HUTCHISON, M.B., B.S., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

JOINTLY WITH MIDLOTHIAN COUNTY COUNCIL.

Senior Assistant Medical Officers:

†JAMES DOW, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

†MARGARET MCKENZIE, L.R.C.P. & L.R.C.S.(Edin.), C.P.H.

Medical Officers:

*JEANETTE B. MORRISON, L.R.C.P. & L.R.C.S.(Edin.), C.P.H.

*MARGARET MCKENZIE, L.R.C.P. & L.R.C.S.(Edin.), C.P.H.

MAIRI H. LACK, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*EILEEN REDDY, L.R.C.P. & L.R.C.S.(Edin.), D.P.H.

*ELIZABETH M. WATSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*BETTY EMSLIE, M.B., Ch.B.

CLAIRE KISELY, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.(Edin.)

†*ROBERT A. INGLES, L.R.C.P. & L.R.C.S.(Edin.), L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.

†ELIZ. M. INGLES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

†EWAN C. K. DOUGLAS, M.B., Ch.B.

†LEA V. ROSENBLOOM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Dental Officer:

ROBERT P. NEILSON, O.B.E., L.D.S.

Dental Officers:

*JOHN W. SWAN, L.D.S.

J. B. CLARK, L.D.S.

NORMAN P. THOMSON, B.D.S.

K. S. MACPHAIL, L.D.S.

B. W. H. MACLEAN, L.D.S.

R. W. BRAZENALL, L.D.S.

†G. M. SOUTER, L.D.S.

R. A. HODGKINS, L.D.S.

F. C. ROGERS, L.D.S.

S. W. RICHARDSON, B.D.S.

H. M. MACKINTOSH, L.D.S.

†D. G. R. ROBERTSON, B.D.S.

County Nursing Superintendent and Supervisor of Midwives:

JEAN M. TINCH, R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V., Q.N.

Deputy County Nursing Superintendent:

GEORGINA McCANN, R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V., Q.N.

Senior Health Visitor:

ROBINA CAMPBELL, R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V., Q.N.

Head Social Worker

ELIZ. L. GILROY, M.A., A.I.M.S.W.

Mental Health Officer:

WM. H. WALLACE, S.R.N., S.R.M.N.

Superintendent Physiotherapist:

CHAS. A. MACMILLAN, M.C.S.P.

Administrative Officer:

ROBERT FULTON, C.P.A.

*Resigned during year.

†Appointed during year.

STAFF—Continued

Social Workers	....	....	4	Dental Auxiliary	....	1(*†1)
Physiotherapists	....	....	6(*2†2)	Dental Surgery Assistants	....	13(*3†3)
Office Staff	....	....	17(*3†4)	Occupational Therapists	....	5(†5)
Milk Officers	....	....	3			

Consultants

Chest Physician

K. MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.(E)

Orthodontic Surgeon

W. RUSSELL LOGAN, O.B.E., L.R.C.P. & S.(Ed.), F.D.S., H.D.D.

Ophthalmic Surgeon

W. O. PETRIE, M.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., D.T.M. & H.

Dental Anaesthetist

G. MACGREGOR ROSE, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.(E.), L.D.S., D.A.

PEEBLES COUNTY

County Sanitary Inspector :

I. R. M. GUTHRIE.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN B. FORREST

Meat Inspectors (Part time) :

P. J. WILSON, M.R.C.V.S. DUNCAN ROBERTSON, M.R.C.V.S

Health Visitor :

MARGARET C. P. ROSS, R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Health Visitor—District Nurse Midwives :

JANET T. STARK, R.G.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

HEATHER M. HERSCHELL, R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V., Q.N.

†HEW MENG LOKE, R.G.N., S.C.M., H.V., B.T.A.Cert.

District Nurse Midwives :

FINELLA MACLEOD, R.G.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

VIOLET A. TURNER, R.G.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

†AUDREY CHANEY, S.R.N., S.C.M.

District Nurse:

ISABELLA ANGUS, R.G.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

Consultant

Orthopaedic Surgeon

G. W. BAKER, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.(E.), M.Ch. Orth.

PEEBLES BURGH

Burgh Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

E. S. DUNCAN.

INNERLEITHEN BURGH

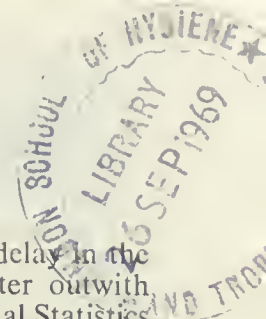
Burgh Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

ANDREW FAIRNIE

*Resigned during year.

†Appointed during year.

PREFACE



It is regretted that each year appears to show further delay in the production of this Report. Unfortunately it is a matter outwith our control as we have to await the publication of the Annual Statistics by the Registrar General.

Discussions on the future of the Health Service Administration continue unabated, and I think it is unfortunate that Local Health Authorities are not prepared to clarify their views until the Report of the Wheatley Commission has been published. It may well be that by then the fundamental decisions in regard to the Health Services will already have been taken.

Not surprisingly, the present uncertainty is having a most serious effect on staff recruitment, and during 1968 we were particularly badly hit in respect of medical staff, losing no less than four medical officers plus Dr Howitt, Depute Medical Officer of Health. Two of the medical officers went into general practice, one was married, and one went to a senior public health post. Replacements of only a temporary nature were available for the medical officers and we are still running two short despite the use of part-time staff. Nursing services likewise suffered. Throughout the whole year we failed to maintain our establishment of occupational therapists and there were regular changes in the office staff. All this, of course, meant a constant excess of work thrown on the remainder of the staff and it is to their credit that they carried this without a grumble.

Statistics

The statistical record of the health of the community is very satisfactory. This year the stillbirth rate at 10 per 1,000 total births, the infant mortality rate at 24 per 1,000 live births, and the fact that only 22 per cent. of those dying do so before 65 years of age compares very favourably with the picture in 1940 when I assumed duty here and when there was a stillbirth rate of 49 and an infant death rate of 40 and 62 per cent. of the deaths occurred before 65 years of age.

Despite that, there is no joy in the picture as presented by deaths from diseases of the heart and circulation which have maintained their position both quantitatively and proportionally by causing 55 per cent. of all deaths. Malignant disease deaths have likewise remained stationary at approximately 13 per cent. since 1940 but in this case producing a favourable picture compared with the considerable rise for the country as a whole.

Infectious disease presents another most interesting, but in this case, encouraging comparison.

				Notifications		Deaths	
				1940	1968	1940	1968
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	44	1	—	—
Diphtheria	....	....	....	7	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	....	....	....	13	2	7	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	....	....	....	3	—	—	—

This change has allowed us to pay much more attention to the milder infections and the various forms of food poisoning. It has also, of course, allowed a very considerable proportion of hospital expenditure to be devoted to other hospital purposes.

Vaccination and Immunisation

The percentage of children between 1 and 15 years vaccinated against smallpox continued at about 84 per cent. General practitioners carried out approximately 74 per cent. of the primary vaccinations and the vast majority of re-vaccinations which were of course asked for by adults going abroad on holiday.

Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, as for poliomyelitis, was maintained at a level over 90 per cent. for children between 6 months and 16 years.

Towards the end of the year immunisation against measles was commenced and by 1st January, 1969, 45 children under five years of age had been protected.

It is interesting to note that General Practitioners are now protecting adults against tetanus by active immunisation much more than previously, 127 persons having been so dealt with in 1968.

Heaf testing of school leavers showed that 16 per cent. of those tested who had not previously had B.C.G. were skin test positive. This figure is not falling as quickly as we would like.

Infectious Disease

The number of new cases of tuberculosis notified this year again showed a fall. "Common" infectious diseases were at a low ebb with the exception of dysentery and measles. It is hoped that despite the temporary difficulty over the measles vaccine, this will be our last "measles year," as all the children should be adequately protected within the next 18 months.

Salmonella typhi-murium infection provided two apparently unconnected cases of food poisoning.

Handicapped Persons

An interesting aspect of the figures of handicapped persons under our supervision is the continuing high level of the group "mental and nervous diseases apart from organic nervous disease."

The number of persons attending our Senior Training Centre remains fairly constant and the staff continue to do very good work supported by the Peeblesshire Local Voluntary Association for Mental Health.

Understaffed as they were, the occupational therapists did excellent work, and proved again how very useful a fully developed service of this nature would be.

It is most encouraging to see that one of our blind persons achieved admission to the University.

Welfare of the Elderly

Our accommodation at Dunwhinny Lodge and Eildon View continued to be fully used throughout the year and progress was made with obtaining a site for a further Home at Innerleithen. It will be a great pity if any delay occurs in the steady progress towards this provision on account of financial difficulties.

Several members of the community were admitted to Dunwhinny Lodge for short periods while relatives went on holiday.

It is noteworthy that 75 per cent. of our residents were over 75 years of age and 6 over 90 years at the end of the year. When it is remembered that they are all ambulant this is a striking testimonial to the care given them by the staff who tend to both their physical and mental welfare.

Sanitary Services

Mr Guthrie, in his customary comprehensive Report, gives an excellent review of the multifarious services in which he and his staff are involved. Although they are basic services, they are constantly expanding and the task of keeping up with the new legislation alone is onerous. The increasing attention paid to Brucellosis infection, in which Peeblesshire was a pioneer, is important and encouraging. The extension of this to salmonella infections and to the use of antibiotics in cattle care, both as preventives to infection and as growth additives, will call for much useful work in the future.

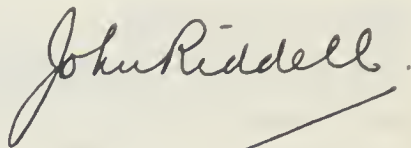
That the advance of science constantly brings new problems in its wake is shown in his note on the results of the temporary failure of the electricity supply.

The appointment of the Milk Officer to act also as Food Hygiene Officer shows that the County Council is well aware of its responsibilities and prepared to shoulder them without quibble.

Acknowledgements

In this Report, as well as thanking Hospital Staffs, Voluntary Workers, Heads of other County Council and Burgh Departments, and more particularly all the members of the Health Department, for their assistance during 1968, I would wish to express an omnibus vote of thanks to all those who have helped during the past 29 years to keep Peeblesshire in the forefront as regards Health Services. Officials cannot produce a good service without the encouragement of their Councillors. Councillors cannot produce a good service without their Officials carrying out their policies not only with intelligence but with keenness. Our achievements in Peeblesshire bear evidence of the team work which has always existed, and we

are indebted to the "Peeblesshire News and Advertiser" for assisting so greatly in carrying the Public along with us. A Health Service cannot stand still. It must either advance or become ineffective. I feel certain that Peeblesshire will continue to be in the van in the future as in the past.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John Riddell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
10 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS,
EDINBURGH,
EH3 7QZ.

12th May, 1969.

COUNTY OF PEEBLES

VITAL STATISTICS, YEAR 1968

	Peebles County	Inner- leithen Burgh	Peebles Burgh	Land- ward Area
Population, Census, 1961	14,117	2,299	5,545	6,273
Population estimated, 1968 (June)....	13,485	2,272	5,580	5,633
Live Births (corrected)	207	38	92	77
Illegitimate Births (corrected)	13	1	5	7
Still Births (corrected)	2	—	2	—
Deaths (corrected)	207	45	96	66
Deaths under 1 year (corrected)	5	2	1	2
Marriages Registered	114	13	59	42

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

(Landward and Burghal) per 1,000 of Population

	1968.	1967.	Scotland*
Birth Rate (corrected)	15.4	15.9	18.1
Death Rate All Causes (corrected)	15.4	13.6	12.0
Death Rate Tuberculosis (corrected)	0.00	0.07	0.04
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	24.0	23.0	19.0
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births	10.0	18.0	14.0

* Excluding Cities and Large Burghs.

AGES AT DEATH

Number of Deaths in the various age groups during 1968:

	Peebles County	Innerleithen Burgh	Peebles Burgh	Landward Area
Under 4 weeks	4	2	1	1
4 weeks—1 year	1	—	—	1
1—4 years	1	—	—	1
5—9	3	—	1	2
10—14	1	—	1	—
15—24	1	1	—	—
25—34	3	1	2	—
35—44	3	—	2	1
45—54	10	3	4	3
55—64	18	4	7	7
65—74	47	8	23	16
75—84	76	16	40	20
85 and over	39	10	15	14
All Ages	207	45	96	66

Infantile Mortality

Deaths classified according to age groups:

	Under 1 week	1 to 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 12 months	Total
Congenital Malformation	1	1	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	—	1
Respiratory Distress Syndrome	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia	—	—	1	—	—	1
	3	1	1	—	—	5

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Peebles County	Inner- leithen Burgh	Peebles Burgh	Land- ward
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	—	—	—
Other tuberculosis, including late effects	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Syphilis and its sequelae	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1	—
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	1	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung	4	1	2	1
Malignant neoplasm of breast	3	2	1	—
Malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri	1	—	1	—
Malignant neoplasm of lymphatic and haema- topoietic tissue	1	1	—	—
Other malignant neoplasms	16	3	9	4
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	—	—	—	—
Diabetes mellitus	2	2	—	—
Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	—	—	—	—
Anaemias	1	—	1	—
Other general diseases	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of nervous system	—	—	—	—
Active rheumatic fever	—	—	—	—
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	2	—	2	—
Hypertensive disease	5	—	3	2
Ischaemic heart disease	56	12	26	18
Other forms of heart disease	9	2	4	3
Cerebrovascular disease....	32	5	16	11
Other circulatory diseases	9	3	2	4
Influenza	4	—	3	1
Pneumonia	18	6	7	5
Bronchitis, emphysema and asthma	10	2	7	1
Other respiratory diseases	4	1	1	2
Peptic ulcer	1	—	1	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	—	1	—
Cirrhosis of liver....	—	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	5	—	—	5
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—
Infections of kidney	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of genito-urinary system	1	—	—	1
Abortion	—	—	—	—
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	—	—	—	—
Diseases of skin, musculoskeletal system, etc.	—	—	—	—
Congenital anomalies of nervous system	—	—	—	—
Congenital anomalies of circulatory system	1	1	—	—
Other congenital anomalies	1	1	—	—
Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	1	—	—	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	—	—	—	—
Senility without mention of psychosis....	—	—	—	—
Ill-defined and unknown causes	2	—	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents....	2	—	1	1
Other road vehicle accidents	1	—	1	—
Accidents in the home	5	—	3	2
Other violence	3	1	1	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injury	2	1	—	1
All causes	207	45	96	66

NURSING ESTABLISHMENT

The Centres and duties of nurses are as follows :

Area.	No. of Nurses.		Duties.				Car
			Mid-wifery	Home Nursing	Health Visiting	School Nursing	
West Linton	1		"	"	"	"	1
Broughton	1		"	"	"	"	1
Innerleithen	1		—	"	—	—	1
Walkerburn	1		"	"	—	—	1
Peebles	2		"	"	"	"	2
Peebles	1		—	—	"	"	1

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Maternity Services

The number of mothers having home confinement has decreased considerably in recent years—1954, 26; 1964, 3; 1965, 2; 1966, 3; 1967, nil; 1968, 2. While it remains essential to have midwives available there is less need for all members of nursing staff to be qualified to act as midwives.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics

No such clinics are held under Local Authority auspices but members of nursing staff attend clinics in the county as follows—

INNERLEITHEN—G.P. Clinic. DN/M attends—14 mothers attended—35 sessions were held.

WEST LINTON—G.P. Clinic DN/M/HV attends—25 mothers attended—38 sessions were held.

PEEBLES MATERNITY HOSPITAL—Health Visitor gives courses of instruction on Mothercraft and Relaxation to mothers attending.

Expectant and Nursing Mothers

It is exceedingly difficult to understand why the dental service provided for school children is over-burdened by a demand for treatment with which it is difficult to cope, and yet, by contrast, the demands of the Maternity and Child Welfare Service are so meagre. In the majority of cases the same families are involved and the work is carried out by the same dental team.

Although only six mothers presented for dental examination even this is an improvement on the previous year. Three ante-natal and two post-natal patients were offered treatment which they all accepted and, during the year, made 24 treatment visits. The sixth person examined chose to have treatment from her family dentist and it may be safely assumed that many other eligible mothers of the County took full advantage of the General Dental Practitioner Service where treatment of expectant and nursing mothers is also entirely free of charge.

The work carried out for the mothers who attended the Clinics is detailed hereunder:

Inspection

	Number Examined		With Dental Defects		Offered Treatment	
	Ante Natal	Post Natal	Ante Natal	Post Natal	Ante Natal	Post Natal
Peebles High	1	1	1	1	1	1
St Ronan's	2	2	2	2	2	1
Total	3	3	3	3	3	2

Treatment

Number of First Visits	(a) Ante-natal	3
	(b) Post-natal	2
Number of Attendances		24
Fillings		1
Extractions		24
General Anaesthetics		1
Other Operations		4
Dentures—		
Fitted		4
Repaired		1
* Sessions devoted to inspection and treatment (estimated)		17

* This figure includes the time devoted to all M. & C.W. work (including dental health education) because both mothers and pre-school children for reasons of convenience and economy are intermixed when undergoing inspection or treatment at the various dental centres.

Domiciliary Maternity Cases

2

Ante-natal and Post-natal care given by local authority midwives to Hospital booked cases etc.

Ante-natal—Hospital booked cases	....	....	....	....	....	....	19
Domiciliary booked cases transferred to hospital care or admitted to hospital in emergency	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
							19
Post-natal—Cases delivered in hospital and attended by local authority midwives on discharge	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
							25

	1967	1968
Domiciliary confinement	—	2
Domiciliary ante-natal care—hospital confinement—(emergency)	—	—
Domiciliary ante-natal care—case originally booked for home confinement—booking later transferred to hospital	1	—
Domiciliary ante-natal care—case booked for hospital confinement	18	19
No. of outfits issued	—	2

Period under Ante-natal supervision

Type of Case	Period under ante-natal supervision in weeks									Total
	0	1-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-28	29-32	
Domiciliary confinement	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Domiciliary ante-natal care — hospital admission — transfer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Domiciliary ante-natal care — hospital confinement booked	—	2	1	4	7	1	3	—	1	19

Details of analgesia, etc., administered during the year—

Inhalation	....	....	....	1
Inhalation and Oral	....	....	....	1

Births (adjusted for mothers' residence)

					Live births	Still-births	Total
(a) Domiciliary births	....	....	....	....	2	—	2
(b) Hospital births*	....	....	....	....	208	2	210
					210	2	212
*Peebles War Memorial Hospital	....	....	....	....	145	—	145
Elsie Inglis Hospital, Edinburgh	....	....	....	....	3	—	3
Simpson Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh	....	....	....	....	47	2	49
Western General Hospital, Edinburgh	....	....	....	....	4	—	4
Lockhart Hospital, Lanark	....	....	....	....	4	—	4
William Smellie Hospital, Lanark	....	....	....	....	4	—	4
Galashiels Hospital	....	....	....	....	1	—	1
					208	2	210

Premature Births

Number of premature births, i.e., where birth weight is 5 lb. 8 oz. or less (as adjusted by any notification of transfer in or out of the area).

Premature live births

Weight at birth	Born in hospital			Nursed entirely at home or in a private maternity home		
	Total births	Died		Total births	Died	
		Within 24 hours of birth	in 7 days		within 24 hours of birth	Premature stillbirths born in hospital
2 lb. 3 oz. or less	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 2 lb. 3 oz. up to and including 3 lb. 4 oz.	—	—	—	—	—	1
Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz.	1	1	—	—	—	—
Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz.	2	—	—	—	—	—
Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz.	5	—	1	—	—	—
Total	8	1	1	—	—	1

Child Welfare Clinics

(a) The following Clinics were provided by the Local Authority:

PEEBLES—Hay Lodge—alternate Tuesdays—2 p.m.-4 p.m.

INNERLEITHEN—St Ronan's Secondary School—alternate Thursdays—2 p.m.-4 p.m.

WEST LINTON—General Practitioner's Surgery—every 4th Thursday—2 p.m.-4 p.m.

BROUGHTON—Clinic, Nurse's Cottage—Thursdays—2 p.m.-4 p.m.

	Broughton	Innerleithen	Peebles	West Linton
Sessions held by—				
Doctor	12	14	20	12
Health Visitor	32	10	—	1
Children attending—				
Born 1968	12	24	25	13
Born 1967	15	12	30	9
Born 1963-1966	18	20	56	16
Revisits—				
Born 1968	50	132	122	16
Born 1963-1967	121	97	107	20
Average number in attendance per clinic	7	12	17	6

(b) No Clinics were provided by Voluntary Bodies.

Welfare Foods

National Dried Milk and Vitamin preparations are distributed by the Health Visitors and at the following Centres:

PEEBLES—Chambers Institute—Thursday, 3 p.m.-4 p.m. Child Welfare Clinic, Hay Lodge—alternate Tuesdays, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

INNERLEITHEN—Child Welfare Clinic—alternate Thursdays, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

WALKERBURN—Nurse's House, 1 Jubilee Road.

WEST LINTON—District Council Office—each Tuesday, 2.30 p.m.-4 p.m.

BROUGHTON—Nurse's Cottage—each Thursday, 2.30 p.m.-4 p.m.

TRAQUAIR—Post Office—daily.

Fortunately all the voluntary workers who have given their time so generously to this purpose for many years, continued to "carry on." Without their help we would have been in a very difficult position and we are correspondingly indebted to them. The average weekly uptake in the County during the year was:

National Dried Milk	18 packets	Cod Liver Oil	4 bottles
A. & D.	90 tablets	Orange Juice	56 bottles

At Risk Register

The number of children on this Register at the end of the year was:

Born 1968, 14; Born 1967, 14; Born 1966, 27; Born 1965, 6; Born 1964, 5; Total 66.

Dental—

Pre-School Children

Local Authorities have a statutory obligation to provide facilities for dental inspection and treatment of all members of the priority classes. These facilities are freely available at every school in the County. All rural schools now receive a dental visit each year, yet, despite this arrangement, the number of pre-school children who are presented for dental inspection still remains at a most unrealistic level whereas, by contrast, it is almost impossible to satisfy the demand from school children who are periodically given routine dental inspection. The initiative to seek dental examination rests entirely with parents of pre-school children, hence in the absence of pain or any obvious dental defect, few parents appear to seek advice.

Throughout the year 93 children were presented for examination compared with 78 the previous year. It is gratifying to note some improvement although this is still “just a drop in the bucket.” Eight children (8·6%) were dentally sound and 85 (91·4%) showed some form of dental defect, 82 (96·5%) of whom were offered treatment. The three children not referred were either under the care of private practitioners or the defects too trivial to treat. During the course of the year 82 children made 148 clinic attendances for treatment and, by the end of December, 76 had been rendered dentally fit; subsequent treatment for the remainder will be completed early in 1969.

Details of inspection and treatment are set out hereunder :

Inspection

Age	Numbers Examined				With Defects				Offered Treatment			
	2	3	4	Total	2	3	4	Total	2	3	4	Total
Mobile Unit	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	2
Peebles High	5	26	34	65	5	24	31	60	5	21	31	57
St Ronan's	2	8	8	18	1	7	8	16	1	7	8	16
Various Day Schools	—	5	3	8	—	4	3	7	—	4	3	7
Total	7	41	45	93	6	37	42	85	6	34	42	82

Treatment

First Visits	82
Attendances	148
Fillings	58
Extractions	129
General Anaesthetics	23
Other Operations	54

Eyes

Eyes—Five pre-school children were referred for visual defect, 2 being provided with glasses and 1 being referred to the orthoptic department.

Ear, Nose and Throat—No information available as to children treated.

Speech—No pre-school children were referred to the Speech Therapist.

Ultra-Violet Light Treatment—No children treated.

Orthopaedic—Five pre-school children were seen by the Orthopaedic Surgeon, all of them being given domiciliary care, or being treated at local clinics. At the end of the year there were 9 pre-school children on the register.

NURSERIES AND HOMES

Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes

There are no such Homes in the County.

Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948

Premises:

Registered at 31st December, 1968 ....	....	....	....	....	1
Number of places approved .....	....	....	....	....	17

Persons:

Applications granted during 1968 ....	....	....	....	....	1
Registered at 31st December, 1968 ....	....	....	....	....	3
Number of places approved .....	....	....	....	....	19

Mother and Baby Homes

(a) Maintained by Voluntary Bodies—

Tired Mothers' Holiday Home, Glencorse House, Peebles.

This house is carried on in conjunction with the Edinburgh Children's Holiday Fund. There is accommodation for 10 mothers and a restricted number of children under 5 years of age, for periods of 10 days each. Vacancies may also be filled on occasion by old age pensioners.

(b) Provided by the Midlothian, East Lothian and Peebles Children's Committee—

Midfield House and Tenterfield House

Children in Homes at 30th November, 1967	....	....	....	....	2
Admitted during 1968 ....	....	....	....	....	9
Died during 1968 .....	....	....	....	....	—
Discharged during 1968 ....	....	....	....	....	2
Remaining in Homes at 30th November, 1968	....	....	....	....	9

Children Act, 1948

Children on Child Life Protection Register at 30th Nov., 1968	—
Children from Peeblesshire boarded-out in Peeblesshire	7
„ „ „ boarded-out in other areas	1
„ „ „ in Joint Children's Committee Homes	9
„ „ „ in Registered Voluntary Homes....	—
Children from other areas boarded-out in Peeblesshire	11

Adoption Act, 1958

Number of adoptions arranged by Local Authority ....	....	—
Number of children supervised under Part IV following notices—		
under (a) Secs. 37(1) (a) and 38 ....	....	2
(b) Secs. 37(1) (b) and 38 ....	....	—

Children coming into care 1st December, 1967—30th November, 1968

Under 2 years	2—4 years	5—15 years	Over 15 years	Total
3	7	5	2	17

NURSING SERVICES

Miss Tinch reports as follows: In the last Annual Report comment was made on the fact that absence of individual members of staff, coupled with the lack of relief staff, could account for the decrease of visits made. In 1968 the total number of visits has increased by 994. This can be taken to reflect the fact that all staff were on duty for a higher proportion of the year.

It seems significant that following the last increase of establishment by a relief DN/M the nursing visits rose as did the number of cases referred. In a County where the majority of staff undertake combined duties it is vital that priorities be determined when time to undertake all work is not available. This determination of priorities has different facets. Family doctors cut down referrals if staff are busy or appear to be so. Staff cut down frequency of visits. Decisions are taken regarding the relative importance of work of a preventive and curative nature. This last is perhaps the most difficult to decide in individual cases. In a given hour is it better to give general nursing care to a sick person or visit a school where there are few if any apparent health problems?

To a limited extent there has been a development in that 48 patients were treated at a doctor's surgery. This could be extended if staff could be made available to attend regularly thus undertaking the nursing treatment required by patients able to attend the surgery rather than wait for attention at home. It would save time for both patients and nurses. An increase of staff would facilitate developments in services.

An opportunity arose whereby a closer link of services and more experience for midwives to practise their skills could have been made possible through linking the midwifery staff of the Maternity Unit in Peebles with the Local Authority midwifery staff. This plan was not put into operation which is a pity. It was unfortunate that the domiciliary staff concerned could not be made to realise the advantages of such a scheme. In any future recruitment of staff their willingness to participate in new schemes to the mutual advantage of staff and community will be ascertained. Changes are inevitable if the best possible service is to be maintained.

Our visitors to the undernoted during the year were as follows:

		C.N.S.	H.V.	D.N./M./H.V.	D.N./M.	D.N.	F.W.I.
Nursing Students	....	15	1	8	3	3	—
Student H.V.'s	....	—	—	—	—	—	4
Scottish Home and Health Department		1	—	1	—	—	—

HEALTH VISITING

Domiciliary Visitation

						Cases	Visits
Expectant Mothers	....	....	....	....	....	3	9
Children born in 1968	....	....	....	....	....	249	929
Children born in 1967	....	....	....	....	....	168	774
Children born in 1963-66	....	....	....	....	....	421	1239
School Children	....	....	....	....	....	47	115
Persons aged 65 years and over	....	....	....	....	....	61	587
Mental Health—care and after care	....	....	....	....	....	2	2
Other hospitals after care	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Tuberculosis households	....	....	....	....	....	34	95
Other infectious diseases	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Problem families	....	....	....	....	....	4	9
Other (Home Visits)	....	....	....	....	....	—	886
Persons visited above at request of G.P. or hospital	....	....	....	....	....	—	—

Attendances at Clinics, etc.

Local Health Authority Clinics								Sessions
Ante-natal	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Post-natal	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Ante and Post-natal combined	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Child Welfare	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	99
Immunisation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Mothercraft	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Relaxation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Mothercraft and relaxation combined	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	18
Health Education	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Deafness in young children etc.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	22
								141

Hospital Units

Maternity	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Paediatric	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Geriatric	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Mental Health	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1

School Health

Minor Ailment	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	38
Cleanliness	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	29
Minor Ailment/Cleanliness	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	34

School Health—*Continued*

Eye	6
Medical Inspections	67
Health Education	—
Vision Testing	4
Tuberculosis—Skin Tests and B.C.G. Vaccination	2
Other	—
	<hr/> 180

Other Services

Staff Meetings	26
Visitors	21
Clerical	50
Refresher Causes	4
Other	21
	<hr/> 122

HOME NURSING

	Number of	
	Cases	Visits
All Cases	382	10,409
Under 5 years of age	23	119
65 years and over	268	9,275
Supervisory	53	569
Surgery Care	10	48

Elderly persons requiring supervisory nursing care only, are not recorded as home nursing visits but under a special heading. 61 such persons had 587 visits.

Marie Curie Memorial Foundation Day and Night Nursing Service

A service whereby nursing assistance can be made available to patients with cancer being nursed in their own homes is available, the County Council acting on behalf of the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation.

Four categories of staff are employed for this service.

“A” Registered Nurses “C” Persons with Home Nursing experience
 “B” Enrolled Nurses “D” Nursing assistants with no training

There have been no calls made on this service during the year.

DOMESTIC HELP

	Wholetime	Part Time	Wholetime Equivalent
Organisers	—	4	0.25
Home Helps	—	60	12
Night Attendants	—	—	—

Domestic Help—Continued

Help given to Persons—							No. of Cases
Aged 65 or over	....	....	....	....	....	....	112
Under 65 years—Chronic Sick	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Mentally Disordered	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Maternity	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Others	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Total							117

All Domestic Helps are X-rayed before first appointment.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Smallpox Vaccination

Number Vaccinated during 1968—							Under 5 years	5-15 years	Over 15 years
Successful....	....	....	....	....	....	....	178	43	—
No reaction	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Not examined	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Total							178	43	—

Number Re-Vaccinated during 1968—							Under 5 years	5-15 years	Over 15 years
Successful....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	1	54
No reaction	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Not examined	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Total							2	1	54

Percentage Vaccinated end of 1968							1-4 years	5-15 years
							75	88

221 Records (164 primary and 57 re-vaccinations) were returned by General Practitioners.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation

							Under 5 years	5-15 years	Over 15 years
Number immunised during 1968	....	....	....	....	....	....	198	3	—
Number given maintenance injection during 1968	....	....	....	....	....	....	131	115	—
Number of confirmed cases of diphtheria in 1968	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Number of deaths from diphtheria in 1968	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Percentage immunised against Diphtheria of those resident in County at end of 1968							6 mths. to 4 years	5-15 years	
							90	92	

Records for 392 children were returned by General Practitioners
(185 primary and 207 "booster" injections)

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The number of persons vaccinated during 1968 was as follows:

	Under 5 years	5 to 15 years	Over 15 years
Number vaccinated during 1968	215	17	—
Number given maintenance dose during 1968	11	147	—

	6 months to 4 years	5 to 15 years
Percentages vaccinated against poliomyelitis at end of 1968	88	92

292 records (221 Primary and 71 Maintenance doses were returned by general practitioners).

Measles Vaccination

The number of persons vaccinated during 1968 was as follows:

	Under 5 years	5 to 15 years	Over 15 years
Number vaccinated during 1968	45	—	—

Six records were returned by general practitioners.

Tetanus Immunisation

The number of persons immunised during 1968 was as follows:

	Under 5 years	5 to 15 years	Over 15 years
Number immunised during 1968	—	83	—
Number given maintenance injections during 1968	—	44	—

General practitioners carried out all tetanus immunisations.

Tuberculin Testing and B.C.G. Vaccination—

Contacts

During 1968 this service was continued for all pre-school and school children who were contacts of known cases of tuberculosis.

The following table sets out these skin tests, B.C.G. vaccinations and X-ray results by age and sex.

Age Group (years)	Under 1		1 and under 5		5 and under 10		10 and under 15		15 and under 20		Totals by sex		Total
Sex	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Positive Skin Test	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Negative Skin Test	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	4
Negative Reactors—													
Given B.C.G.	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	4
Positive Reactors—													
X-Rayed	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1*

* This case was confirmed and placed on register. The family have now left the area.

School Leavers

The parents of all children born in 1954 were asked to give their consent to skin test, with B.C.G. vaccination of negative reactors and X-ray of positive reactors. In 93.9 per cent. of cases the parents gave complete consent.

The positive reactors were X-rayed at special sessions at the schools by means of large films. No cases of tuberculosis were discovered.

No. Skin Tested			Refusals			Positive Reactors			X-rayed		
M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
76	55	131	4	2	6	15	11	26	15	11	26

105 pupils were given B.C.G. vaccination.

Six positive reactors had previously had B.C.G. vaccination.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Tuberculosis

The trend of notifications since 1935 is shown in the following table:

	1935- 1939	1940- 1944	1945- 1949	1950- 1954	1955- 1959	1960- 1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
	Av.	Av.	Av.	Av.	Av.	Av.				
Respiratory	6	11	17	11(2)	6(5)	3(2)	2(1)	9(4)	10(1)	2(1)
Non-Respiratory	5	6	7	2(1)	1(—)	1(—)	—(—)	2(—)	—(—)	—(—)
Total	11	17	24	13(3)	7(5)	4(2)	2(1)	11(4)	10(1)	2(1)

Two notifications were confirmed. The figure in brackets is additional cases transferred in. These are included in previous averages.

Types of New Respiratory Cases Found						
	Total Cases	Sputum + ve	Early acute	Chronic	Contact of known case	
Male	1	—	1	—
Female	1	—	—	1

Mass Miniature Radiography

Nineteen domestic helps were X-rayed at fixed units in Peebles or Edinburgh. No cases were found.

Number of Persons Resident in the County at 31st December, 1968, who were known to be suffering from Tuberculosis

By Area		Confirmed in 1968.		Total known Cases in Area.	
Area.		Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory
Landward	....	1	—	8	2
Peebles	....	—	—	21	3
Innerleithen	....	1	—	9	2
Total	....	2	—	38	7

By Age Groups		<div>5152535455565</div> <div>andandandandandandandand</div> <div>Underunderunderunderunderunderunderunder</div> <div>515253545565wards</div>								Total
Age Group (in years)		5	15	25	35	45	55	65		
Respiratory										
Confirmed 1968	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
	F.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Total in County 31/12/68	M.	1	4	2	1	5	3	1	3	
	F.	—	2	—	4	6	2	2	2	
Non-Respiratory										
Confirmed 1968	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total in County 31/12/68	M.	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	4	
	F.	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	

Particulars of persons who died from Tuberculosis in the County during the Year

No deaths from tuberculosis were reported.

Sanatoria

anatoria			In Sanatoria on 1st Jan. 1968	Admitted during 1968	Discharged or died during 1968	In Sanatoria on 31st Dec. 1968
Males ....	....	....	1	1	1	1
Females	....	....	2	—	2	—
Children	....	....	—	—	—	—
Total		....	3	1	3	1

There were no cases on the Waiting List at the end of year.

Housing of Tuberculosis Cases

There were no overcrowded tuberculosis families during 1968.

Other Infectious Diseases

The further following confirmed cases of other infectious disease occurred during the year:

		Land- ward Area	Peebles Burgh	Inner- leithen Burgh	Total 1968	Cases not admitted to Hospital	Total 1967
Dysentery ....	....	1	—	—	1	1	18
Scarlet Fever ....	....	—	1	—	1	1	—
Food Poisoning ....	....	2	—	—	2	2	—
Whooping Cough ....	....	—	—	—	—	—	4
Measles ....	....	1	19	—	20	20	—
Total ....	....	4	20	—	24	24	22

Venereal Diseases

Patients attend for consultation and treatment at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, where they may be admitted to special wards for in-treatment if necessary.

Examination of specimens is carried out at the Infirmary Laboratory.

Medical practitioners in the County are supplied with the necessary outfits for taking specimens, which are sent to the Clinical Pathologist, Pathological Laboratory, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

Syphilis—Acquired	....	....	1	Other Venereal Infections	....	5
Congenital	....	....	—	Non-Venereal Disease	....	—
Gonorrhoea	....	....	2	Trichomonas vaginalis	....	1
Non-gonococcal Urethritis	....	....	2			

Bacteriological Services

The following examinations were made at the Bacteriology Department, Edinburgh University.

								1967	1968
Faeces and other specimens for enteric pathogens	....	....						137	51
Urine	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	25	21
Nose and Throat Swabs	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17	17
Sputum, pus and other specimens	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9	10
Specimens for acid-fast bacilli	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	Nil
Food	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	2
Sera	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	4
Total	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	195	105

HEALTH EDUCATION

In accordance with our general principle, chief reliance was placed on individual talks to parents and children at school medical and dental inspections and maternity and child welfare clinics, and during home visitation.

Persuasion of the individual, by health education, is something of which it is very difficult to assess a result—consequently at times health education can be disheartening. However, the staff of the Health and Welfare Department have continued to give talks on a variety of subjects as shown in the table.

Subject	Preformed Groups				Totals Talks Attd.	
	Youth Talks Attd.		Adult Talks Attd.			
First Aid and Home Nursing	—	—	1	30	1	30
Mothercraft	—	—	16	17	16	17
Others	—	—	2	13	2	13
	—	—	19	60	19	60

Attendance at Courses

With the rapid advances in medicine and the continual changes in legislation with regard to Health Services and Welfare it is very difficult for members of staff to keep up to date. Regular staff meetings are held and these meetings certainly help, but, in addition, every opportunity should be taken to send members of staff on organised courses, and the undernoted table shows how many members of the staff attended such courses during the year. Courses attended:

By	By	By	By
Medical Officers	Dental Officers	Nursing Staff	Other Staff
7	4	5	2

HANDICAPPED PERSONS

All handicapped children are given regular medical supervision under the Child Welfare and School Health services in association with the family doctors and hospital consultants. If need be the children are sent to Castlecraig Residential School, or such other temporary accommodation as may be more appropriate. When due to leave school, the Youth Employment Officer is advised of their limitations as regards employment. After school they become the responsibility of the Welfare Committee who arrange further care and supervision, either at the Senior Training Centre, or by home visitation by the Occupational Therapist.

Physical Defects—General Classification Register

	Male	Female	Total
Congenital Malformations	—	4	4
Deaf and Dumb	—	5	5
Blind and Partially Blind	18	29	47
Organic Nervous Diseases	3	5	8
Other Nervous or Mental Disorders	8	13	21
Amputations	—	1	1
Arthritis and Rheumatism	2	3	5
Injuries	2	4	6
Other Diseases	1	1	2
Totals	34	65	99

Blind Persons

Ascertainment and supervision of blind persons is carried out by the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland Society for Teaching the Blind to Read at their Own Homes.

Age Group (years)	0-4	5-15	16-29	30-39	40-49	50-69	70+	Total
Registered in 1966								
M.	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
F.	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Total on Register								
at 31/12/68								
M.	—	—	1	1	1	9	3	15
F.	—	—	1	1	1	8	13	24

One boy of 18 years attends Worcester College for the Blind.

		Adult Blind				Unemployed	
		Employed				M. F.	
		M.	F.			M.	F.
In workshops for blind	....	1	1	Not available for employ-	....	8	21
As approved home workers	—	—	1	ment	....	—	1
Others (excl. those at school)	5	—	—	Not capable of work	....	1	—
				Trainable for ,rofession			
Total	....	6	2	Total	....	9	22

In addition there were 8 partially sighted persons registered in the County.

Welfare of Blind

The “blind” visitor reported as follows: The bulk of the complaints about the Talking Book Service have been from Peebles County—these have resulted in three people from the county asking me to arrange for the machines to be withdrawn. Servicing of the machines has to be done from Galashiels and the standard does not appear to be very high. Complaints have also been received about the delay in receiving cassettes and two ladies have received several cassettes one after the other, all completely unusable.

Visiting has continued over the last twelve months in the county and two people have been having craft lessons in their homes. I have been asked to give lessons in Braille to two people.

Parties from Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Peebles attended the January social in Galashiels and also the summer outing to Portobello, Edinburgh. The Christmas social was not well attended due to the bad condition of the roads at the time.

A young man from Peebles has been admitted to University this year; he also became a Guide Dog owner.

Quite a lot of handicraft materials have been issued in the county and the standard of work is very high.

There is no one on the Blind Register living in Peebles who is giving rise to anxiety and the Welfare Department are to be congratulated on their high standards.

Deaf and Dumb

Ascertainment and supervision of deaf and dumb persons is carried out by the Edinburgh Deaf and Dumb Benevolent Society.

		Position at 31/12/68														Total	
Age Group		0-4		5-15		16-29		30-39		40-49		50-69		70+			
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Employed....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Unemployed or not																	
available for work		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4

Each of these persons suffers from deafness of “severe” degree.

Epileptics and Spastics

Reliable information in regard to the numbers of adults suffering from epilepsy is not available. Three mild cases are in attendance at school and are able to undertake all activities under only mild sedation.

Should any case be brought to the notice of this Department, where education and treatment at the Colony for Epileptics, Bridge of Weir, would be considered suitable, arrangements could be made for admission.

As with epileptics, no reliable figures are available in regard to the number of adults suffering from Cerebral Palsy. There are at present 5 cases reported among children and young persons. One boy attends St Ronan's Special School, another attends Murrayfield Day Centre and two girls attend the ordinary school.

Where desirable, cases may be examined at Westerlea School for Spastics, and arrangements made for suitable cases to be admitted. In cases where the level of intelligence is such that they are not considered suitable for Westerlea, but where surgical intervention may be required, treatment is arranged at Princess Margaret Rose Hospital or Peel Hospital. Co-operation with the Welfare Services is satisfactory.

Aids

During the year the following aids were issued :

Bath Mats	....	....	....	1
Bath Seats	....	....	....	3
Bath Rails	....	....	....	1
Bath Boards	....	....	....	1
Rubagate	....	....	....	2
Spoke Board	....	....	....	1
Elastic Shoe Laces	....	....	....	1 pair

Adaptations

There were no adaptations made to the houses of handicapped persons during the year.

Mental Defectives

Adults				Male	Female
Under official Guardianship in Peeblesshire	....	....	....	1	2
(Of whom one is a Midlothian case)					
Under informal supervision	....	....	....	6	4
(Of whom two males and one female are on the waiting list for admission to hospital)					
Children					
Aged 1-5 years	....	....	....	1	2
Aged 5-16 years at home—not fit for admission to special school or occupational centre	....	....	....	1*	1
Aged 5-16 years in attendance at Education Committee Occupational Centre/Special Class	....	....	....	14	7
Aged 5-16 years in attendance at residential School: Garvald House, Dolphinton	....	....	....	—	1
Castle Craig, Blythbridge	....	....	....	—	—
Aged 5-16 years at ordinary schools, I.Q. 75 or under	....	....	....	2	—

* Attends Murrayfield Day Centre.

In Hospital

				1-5		5-16		Over 16	
				M	F	M	F	M	F
Gogarburn	—	—	—	—	7	1
Rosslynlee	—	—	—	—	—	2
Larbert	—	—	—	—	1	—
St Mary's (Galashiels)	—	—	—	—	—	2
Hansel Village	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lynebank	—	—	—	—	1	—
St Joseph's	—	—	—	—	—	1
								9	7

Waiting List for Admission to Hospital

Age				Male		Female	
1-5 years	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
5-16 years	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
Over 16 years	....	....	....	2	—	1	—
				2	—	1	—

Mentally Ill

The number of mentally ill cases treated in Hospital during the year was as follows:

				Rosslynlee		Dingleton	
				Male	Female	Male	Female
In Hospital at 31/12/67	....	....	....	14	14	10	16
Admitted during 1968	....	....	....	1	—	17	22
Discharged „ „	....	....	....	—	1	9	18
Died „ „	....	....	....	—	—	8	6
Remaining at 31/12/68	....	....	....	15	14	10	14

Fourteen cases were given After-Care supervision by the hospitals.
(Rosslynlee —; Dingleton 14.)

Home Visits during 1968

			Visits by					
			No. of Cases	Medical Officers	Health Visitors	P.S.W.	Mental Health Officers	* Others Voluntary Organisations
Mentally Defective—								
Under Guardianship	3		6	—	—	6	—	—
Under Informal Supervision	10		8	2	—	8	13	—
Mentally Ill—								
Under Guardianship	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
Under Informal Supervision	5		—	—	—	—	14	—

*County Welfare Officer as part-time Mental Health Officer.

Eastgate Hall Senior Training Centre

Number attending:

		Male	Female	
Mentally Handicapped	....	3	6	
Physically Handicapped	....	8	4	
				Total 21

The mentally handicapped attend five days per week and the physically handicapped part-time.

One badly handicapped person who attended the Centre during the year left to take up an appointment in a local mill.

Three persons attended camp at Laudervale House, Dunbar, during the summer and three persons had a holiday with the assistance of the Council at King's Knoll, North Berwick.

Social Work

Miss Gilroy reports: During 1968, 41 new referrals were made and 6 cases were carried forward from last year. The sources of referral were:

Family Doctors	....	....	....	....	....	17
Hospitals	....	....	....	....	....	18
Medical Officer	....	....	....	....	....	6
						<hr/> 41
				carried forward		6
						<hr/> 47

It is interesting that this year more patients have been referred to the social worker from family doctors. I find this most encouraging—it would seem to indicate great confidence between the doctors and the social workers, so we do seem to be getting to know each other better! Greater understanding can only be to the benefit of the patients. All the family doctors in Peeblesshire have, as always, been most co-operative and kind. As previously, regular visits have been made to the practice in Innerleithen with the social worker from Dingleton. This triangular meeting of general practitioner, hospital and local authority is fairly rare and Dr Henderson and Dr Mooney have every reason to be proud of the standards of co-operation which they have been able to establish.

Also for the first time this year these two doctors kindly agreed to take a student from the Course for Certificate in Social Work at Moray House. He went to the surgery one day each week for three months and it was wonderful to see how the doctors' demands for social work increased when the social worker was regularly available.

Close contact has been maintained with the Peeblesshire team at Dingleton Hospital. I usually went to a team meeting about once a month at the hospital and worked with the team of psychiatrists, nurses and social workers at the Out-Patient Clinic at Peebles. It is not very often that an "outsider"—a social worker from a local authority—will be given the opportunity to really be part of a hospital team. It has been a privilege and an experience of great value.

OLD PEOPLE

Meals on Wheels

To assist the policy of the Health Committee of keeping old people in their own homes as long as possible, a meals on wheels service was started through the co-operation of the W.R.V.S. in Peebles Burgh in 1963. In 1964 the service was extended to Innerleithen and West Linton, in the latter area the work being carried on under the auspices of the local British Red Cross workers using their own transport. The position at the end of 1968 was as follows:

Peebles—

Meals supplied three days each week—Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

No. of Meals supplied at 1/1/68—23.

No. of Meals supplied at 31/12/68—17.

Meals supplied by School Kitchen and delivered by W.R.V.S.

Innerleithen—

Meals supplied two days each week—Tuesday and Thursday.

No. of Meals supplied at 1/1/68—21.

No. of Meals supplied at 31/12/68—20.

Meals supplied by School Kitchen and delivered by W.R.V.S.

West Linton—

Meals supplied two days each week—Tuesday and Thursday.

No. of Meals supplied at 1/1/68—8.

No. of Meals supplied at 31/12/68—13.

Meals supplied by Broomlee Camp and delivered by Red Cross.

In all cases the recipients of meals pay 1/8 per meal.

Chiropody

The persons eligible for this service under the aegis of the Peeblesshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society are women over 60 years and men over 65 years, the charge made being 1/- per visit. The scheme includes a certain amount of domiciliary treatment for housebound cases, and many others are provided with special transport to bring them to the treatment centre. The number of treatments given during the year was as follows:

	Treatments	Cases
Peebles (including Dunwhinny Lodge)	548	205
Innerleithen	218	75
Walkerburn	137	41
Broughton	53	18
West Linton	130	50
Traquair	34	10

This is a striking example of the most valuable work which can be done by voluntary organisations. The old folk benefit to an almost unbelievable extent.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

A part-time occupational therapist was employed for Dunwhinny Lodge. She was one of the voluntary workers at the Eastgate Hall Centre and continued in this capacity during the year.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

During 1968 the physiotherapy service for all sections of the community continued to be provided by one physiotherapist, the various duties being divided equally between local authority and the Borders Hospital Board. Hospital adult treatments are carried out at Hay Lodge Clinic, Memorial Hospital and County Hospital.

During the year 254 patients made a total of 3032 out-patient attendances for treatment at Hay Lodge Clinic; 19 in-patients at Peebles Memorial Hospital were also treated.

A total of 116 domiciliary visits were made to treat 8 recent stroke/fracture cases referred by general practitioners.

Dunwhinny Lodge

Sessions continued on a weekly basis and again various conditions were treated.

Attendances				Type of Treatment		
Male		Female		Heat	Exercises	Other
Repeat	New Cases	Repeat	New Cases			
24	2	31	1	24	68	30

Orthopaedic

Nine pre-school children were seen by the orthopaedic consultant (7 new and 2 old cases). At the end of the year 12 pre-school children (7 new and 5 old cases) were on the orthopaedic register.

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Ambulant cases can be admitted to Dunwhinny Lodge, Peebles, or Eildon View Home, Galashiels. The following Table gives details of the Peeblesshire cases in residence during the year:

	Dunwhinny Lodge		Eildon View Home		Total
	Men	Women	Men	Women	
In residence at 31st December, 1967	9	23	6	3	41
Total number of admissions	4	3	3	4	14
Total number of discharges	3	—	—	1	4
Total number of deaths	2	—	—	—	2
In residence at 31st December, 1968	8	26	9	6	49
Number of beds occupied—					
(a) Average during year....	....	34		12	46
(b) Highest ....	....	35		15	50
(c) Lowest ....	....	31		9	40

The Age Distribution of Residents as at 31/12/68 was as follows—

		Under 60 yrs.	61/65	66/70	71/75	76/80	81/85	86/90	90+
Dunwhinny Lodge									
Male ....	....	—	—	1	—	2	2	2	1
Female ....	....	—	1	1	4	7	5	4	4
Eildon View									
Male ....	....	1	—	1	2	4	1	—	—
Female ....	....	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	1

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES

There is no Registered Nursing Home in the County.

HOSPITALS

1. General

General cases are admitted to the War Memorial Hospital which has seventeen beds for this purpose.

2. Infectious Disease

Infectious disease cases are taken to the City Hospital, Edinburgh.

3. Chronic Sick

These are admitted to Kingsland Hospital, Peebles, which has twenty beds.

4. Sanatoria

There are no sanatoria in the County, cases of tuberculosis being admitted to East Fortune Hospital or Bangour Hospital.

5. Maternity

Cases are admitted principally to the War Memorial Hospital, Peebles, which has eleven maternity beds.

6. Children

There are no such Hospitals in the County.

7. Convalescent Homes

There are no such Homes in the County.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

There is one ambulance centre in the County at the garage of the Tweeddale Motor Company Limited, Peebles.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The Report on School Health Services is issued separately.

HOUSING

The position in the County generally with regard to numbers of houses was as follows:

Area		Uninhabitable houses closed during year	Houses built and occupied during year			Conversions	
			L.A.	Private	S.S.H.A.	L.A.	Private
Landward	....	3	—	6	—	—	1
Peebles Burgh	....	4	—	16	—	—	—
Innerleithen Burgh		1	—	2	—	—	2

Factories Act, 1961

	No. on Register	Number of			Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority.					
Landward	—	—	—	—	—
Peebles Burgh	45	31	—	—	—
Innerleithen Burgh	3	6	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.					
Landward	13	16	—	—	—
Peebles Burgh	35	22	—	—	—
Innerleithen Burgh	21	28	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers).					
Landward	7	7	—	—	—
Peebles Burgh	5	5	—	—	—
Innerleithen Burgh	—	—	—	—	—

Factories Act, 1961—continued

Area	Particulars	No. of cases where defects found				Prosecutions
		Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Peebles Burgh	Want of Cleanliness	8	8	—	1	—
	Sanitary Conveniences— Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	—	—	—

OUTWORK

Area	Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		Prosecutions
		No. of out-workers in August List required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	
Landward	Textile Weaving	7	—	—	—	—	—

ANNUAL REPORT—1968

BY THE

COUNTY SANITARY INSPECTOR

The Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914, the Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949, the Milk (Special Designations) (Scotland) Order, 1965, and the Milk and Dairies (Channel Islands and South Devon Milk) (Scotland) Regulations, 1967

I. Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914

	1968	
	1st Jan.	31st Dec.
Number of Certificates of Registration in terms of Section 7	56	66
Number of Registered Producers	42	43

II. Milk (Special Designations) (Scotland) Order, 1965

Number and Type of Licences in force at 31st December, 1968.

Special Designation	Pro-ducer's	Dealer's	Dealer's Supple-mentary	Revoked	Licences	
					Suspended	Reinstated
"Premium"	5	7	2	—	—	—
"Standard"	42	26	6	—	—	—
"Pasteurised"	—	10	5	—	—	—
"Sterilised"	—	—	—	—	—	—
"Ultra-Heat Treated"	—	5	—	—	—	—
Total	47	48	13	—	—	—

III. "Premium" Milk

(1) *Producers' Licences.* At the end of 1968 the number of dairy-men licensed to produce "Premium" milk was five. One wholesaled his milk as "Standard" and as samples were tested to this grade they are included in Part IV below. One wholesaled his milk as "Premium Jersey" to an Edinburgh dairy, two retailed their milk within the County and the remaining dairyman retailed a portion of his milk and wholesaled the remainder also within the County.

At the beginning of 1968 one producer holding a "Premium" licence in respect of milk produced at one farm surrendered this when he started production of "Premium" milk at another set of premises.

A further change occurred during the year when a firm ceased bottling "Premium" milk which had been wholesaled to Edinburgh dairies and commenced its sale as "Standard" milk in bulk to the Scottish Milk Marketing Board.

(2) *Dealers' Licences.* Seven licences to sell "Premium" milk by retail from premises within the County were in force at the end of 1968.

Some of this milk is "imported" into the County and failures relating to such milk were, in all cases, taken up with the officers of the appropriate local authorities, in the majority of cases these being Midlothian County or Edinburgh City, which authorities afforded excellent co-operation.

(3) *Dealers' Supplementary Licences.* Such licences are issued to dairymen retailing milk in the district of one local authority from duly registered and licensed premises in the district of another authority. Two such licences were in force at the end of the year.

Sampling. For the sampling results of this grade of milk reference should be made to the table set out in Part IX.

IV. "Standard" Milk

(1) *Producers' Licences.* At the end of 1968 the number of dairymen licensed to produce "Standard" milk was forty-two.

Set out below is a table giving the distribution of bacterial counts of samples taken from producers' premises.

Samples taken having Bacterial Counts per Millilitre								
Total Samples	Under 10,000	%	10,000 to 30,000	%	30,000 to 50,000	%	Over 50,000	%
261	84	32.43	100	38.61	34	13	43	16.64

(2) *Dealers' Licences.* Twenty-six licences to sell "Standard" milk by retail from premises within the County were in force at the end of 1968. Of these, two related to milk sold at Milk Bars. Eleven were issued in respect of farms selling by retail a reasonable quantity of their production locally. Eight licences related to premises retailing milk produced and bottled within the County. Five related to premises retailing milk produced and bottled outwith the County.

(3) *Dealers' Supplementary Licences.* Four holders of principal licences issued by Midlothian, Selkirk and Lanark County Councils held supplementary licences entitling them to retail "Standard" milk in Peeblesshire from premises outwith the County.

Sampling. For the sampling results of this grade of milk reference should be made to the table set out in Part IX.

V. "Pasteurised" Milk

(1) *Pasteurisers' Licences.* There are no pasteurisation plants in the County.

(2) *Dealers' Licences.* Ten premises were licensed at the end of 1968 to sell by retail "Pasteurised" milk.

(3) *Dealers' Supplementary Licences.* Three firms hold licences to retail this grade of milk within the County from premises outside it. These licences were issued to authorise the sale of "Pasteurised" milk to Peeblesshire Education Authority.

Sampling. For the sampling results of this grade of milk reference should be made to the table set out in Part IX.

VI. "Ultra-Heat Treated" Milk

(1) A new grade of designated milk known as "Ultra-Heat Treated" is now available in the County. This is milk which has been subjected to heat treatment at 270°F for not less than 1 second. The resulting product is reputed to have a storage life of several months in unopened containers even without refrigeration. Samples tested to this grade must not contain more than 1,000 bacteria per millilitre. The Scottish Milk Marketing Board processes this milk which is marketed in tetra-pak cartons under the trade name "Long Life Milk."

(2) *Dealers' Licences.* Five premises were licensed by the end of 1968 to sell by retail "Ultra-Heat Treated" Milk.

Nine samples of this grade of milk were obtained in the normal course of trade, the bacteriological results varying from 0 bacteria per millilitre to 80 bacteria per millilitre which would seem to bear out the claims made that this is a milk with exceptional keeping qualities of particular interest to holiday-makers, tourists, caravanners and the like.

VII. Schools' Milk

All schools within the County received a daily supply of "Pasteurised" milk in $\frac{1}{8}$ pint bottles with the exception of one which due to its isolated position was provided with "Premium" milk in bulk.

The incidence of bacteriological sample failures in "Pasteurised" milk supplied to certain of the schools in the County during the year under review and, indeed, in previous years, has given me cause for concern as I consider it to be higher than desirable. This is in no way a criticism of the pasteurisation plants from which the milk emanates but is attributable primarily to transport and delivery difficulties associated with this widespread but sparsely populated County where it is manifestly uneconomic for a contractor to deliver a dozen $\frac{1}{8}$ pint bottles of milk daily to an isolated rural school. Approaches have been made to the Education Authority, however, which it is hoped will result in an improvement in the supply position.

Sampling. The sampling results are as noted in Part IX below.

VIII. Milk Bars

Two such premises were licensed to operate during 1968.

Sampling. The sampling results from these premises are as noted in the following Part.

IX. Synopsis of Samples

The overall picture of milk sampling in the County, irrespective of the source, is presented in tabular form below.

Samples from	Samples Taken				Samples Satisfactory			
	Prem-ium	Stan-dard	Pasteur-ised	Ultra-Heat Treated	Prem-ium	Stan-dard	Pasteur-ised	Ultra-Heat Treated
Producers	60	261	—	—	27	211	—	—
Dealers ...	38	67	73	9	12	36	65	9
Schools	3	—	70	—	3	—	53	—
Milk Bars....	—	11	—	—	—	6	—	—
Total	101	339	143	9	42	253	118	9

The distribution of routine sample failures by farms is shown in the next table.

Total No. of Farms	Number of Farms having				
	No. Failures	One Failure	Two Failures	Three Failures	Four or more Failures
43	16	7	6	7	7

X. Milk and Dairies (Channel Islands and South Devon) Milk (Scotland) Regulations, 1967

The effect of this Legislation is to require that any milk sold under a label claiming that it is produced by cows of the breeds specified in the Regulations must (a) comply with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) (Scotland) Order, 1965, and (b) contain a minimum of 4% by weight of milk fat.

One producer used such a label.

Four samples of his milk were taken during the year, three of which complied with the Regulations. The average milk fat percentage of this milk was 4.5%.

XI. Refrigerated Cooling and Storage of Milk

(1) *Bulk Milk Tanks.* Thirty-two producers have now installed bulk tanks and a further one has indicated his intention to do so.

(2) *Refrigerated Cooling.* Six producers utilise refrigerated cooling equipment other than bulk milk tanks to cool their milk after production. Of the remaining five producers who have not provided any mechanical means of cooling their milk consistently to 50°F as required in terms of the Order, one has undertaken to install a bulk tank in 1969, one is expected to cease commercial dairying and three have still no mechanical refrigeration systems.

XII. Dairy Improvements

During the year the proposed improvements and alterations at three farms mentioned in my 1967 report were duly completed.

Additionally, 2 new milking parlours, 4 bulk milk tank rooms, 2 dairy sculleries, 2 new byres and a set of cow cubicles were erected, one byre was extended, four round-the-byre pipe-line milking systems, an in-churn refrigerated cooling plant and a bulk tank automatic washing apparatus were installed.

XIII. Brucellosis

Throughout the year all the supplies of raw milk being retailed in the County continued to be tested for presence of brucella abortus. By the middle of the year this sampling had been extended to include all milk produced in the County whether intended for pasteurisation

or not as it was felt that even on farms sending milk for pasteurisation a certain amount is consumed raw by the farmer and his family and in many cases by employees thus exposing those people to a risk of infection.

By the end of the year all registered dairies had been tested at least three times. All samples giving a positive reaction to the Milk Ring Test were subjected to further confirmatory tests to establish beyond doubt the presence of live brucella abortus organisms in the milk. With the co-operation of the farmers concerned individual cow samples were obtained and the milk from any animals found to be infected was excluded from the public supply immediately and the animals themselves disposed of as soon as possible, in practically all cases for slaughter.

Although this covers the majority of dairy cows in the County there is, nevertheless, a possible reservoir of infection in milk produced and consumed on "exempted premises," i.e. those farms from which milk is sold only in small quantities and for their own consumption to persons employed on the farm or to neighbours as permitted by the Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914. The farmers concerned may be quite unaware of any infection in these animals which in turn presents a hazard if and when they are passed through a market. With the Council's approval I have arranged next year to investigate this field in the health interests of the persons involved as well as from this latter aspect.

It is worthwhile here once again to emphasise that this bovine disease has considerable public health significance as it is transmissible to man through the ingestion of infected milk and displays in him a variety of symptoms, some very serious.

With this aspect coupled with the national bovine herd economy in mind the Government in 1967 introduced a voluntary eradication programme involving as a first stage the establishment of a voluntary register of brucella-free herds. To qualify as a "supervised herd" for entry in this register, a herd has to provide three clear milk ring tests at not less than three-monthly intervals, at which stage a final test is made and compensation to a maximum of £160 paid for any reactors found and slaughtered. Thereafter, the herd owner is required to sign an undertaking to observe prescribed rules designed to protect his herd from outside infection. Compensation to a maximum of £160 is again payable for any animals in a "supervised herd" found subsequently to be infected and slaughtered. Finally, when a reasonable number of herds are so registered and supervised, consideration is to be given to compulsory eradication area by area, as was the case with tuberculosis, with, of course, 100% compensation payments.

It is to be regretted, however, that despite pressure from local authority associations, from individual authorities, from medical officers of health and others, the Government has consistently refused on economic and other grounds to countenance the one action which to public health authorities and sanitarians is the obvious one—the compulsory slaughter with built-in compensation measures of

animals proved conclusively by private or local authority tests to be excreting brucella abortus in their milk. This failure allows the unscrupulous farmer to dispose of infected animals in the open dairy sale ring thereby spreading the disease in the animal and human world.

Another aspect of this problem that causes concern is the lack of powers for local authorities and their officers in Scotland to require the pasteurisation of milk supplies suspected of being infected (which renders them safe) without payment of compensation, a power which is given to Medical Officers of Health in England by Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

The results of the screening tests made on the various types of supply during 1968 are as follows:

Source of Supply	No. of Samples taken for Milk Ring Test	No. of Samples giving Positive Reaction
Raw milk for retail produced within the County 	76	6
Raw milk for retail from outside the County 	25	4
Milk intended for Pasteurisation 	167	12
Total 	268	22

XIV. Investigational Samples

In addition to the routine sampling recorded elsewhere in this Report, investigational samples were taken as follows:

Premium	Standard	Total
23	32	55

These were taken at producers' premises in efforts to trace and locate the course of contamination of milk.

General

It was unfortunately found impracticable to put into operation the scheme proposed in my 1967 Report for the testing of milk supplies for the presence of antibiotic drugs used in the treatment of udder diseases. While the residual presence of those drugs in the milk supply is of public health significance and a matter of concern to the local health authority, the additional work load involved was too great for the laboratory and accordingly the project has had to be shelved at least temporarily. The Scottish Milk Marketing Board, of course, carry out routine testing of the milk received by them from producers as part of their contractual arrangements and this ensures a form of safeguard to the consuming public.

Twice during the year a milk producer/bottler and the retailer associated with him had to be given official warnings first concerning milk sold in a dirty bottle and then in connection with milk sold in a bottle containing extraneous matter. The Procurator-Fiscal was consulted in these cases but the evidence was considered not to be sufficiently unassailable to promote successful prosecutions under the Food and Drugs (Scotland) Act, 1956.

Finally, the Scottish Milk Marketing Board have advised me that during the year April, 1967, to March, 1968, the following quantities of milk produced in this County were sold through the Board's agency:

Bulk Tank Milk	954,004 gallons
Milk in Cans	138,492 gallons
	<hr/> 1,092,496 gallons

Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948, Ice Cream (Scotland) Amendment Regulations, 1960, Food Standards (Ice Cream) (Scotland) Regulations, 1959, and Labelling of Food (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations, 1959

Inspections of registered premises were made throughout the selling season and the following samples were taken:

(a) *Bacteriological*. Twenty samples were procured for bacteriological examination, two of which failed to satisfy the recommended standards due to the presence of *B. coli*. Both of these were from products supplied in made-up form to local retailers by large-scale manufacturers. On the matter being drawn to the makers' attention they were quick to take action to ensure the purity of their products and follow-up samples were satisfactory.

(b) *Chemical*. Fourteen samples were submitted to the public analyst for chemical analysis, all of which complied with the requirements of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) (Scotland) Regulations, 1959. The analyst's reports demonstrated the variation in the fat and milk solids-not-fat content which exists between samples of the same grade of ice cream, these ranging in the case of fat from 5.1% to 11.8% and in the case of solids from 6.7% to 15.3%.

Registrations	Premises	Vehicles, Storage and Sale
Number of Certificates of Registration in force at 31st December, 1967	10	—
Number of Certificates of Registration granted during the year	1	—
Number of Certificates of Registration cancelled during the year	—	—
Number of Certificates of Registration discontinued during the year for other reasons	1	—
Total number of Certificates of Registration in force at 31st December, 1968	10	—

FOOD AND DRUGS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1956

(a) Section 28. Sampling

Sampling of food and drugs was carried out throughout the year in accordance with the Act, and 52 test samples of the undernoted commodities were obtained. All were found to comply with the requirements of the Act.

Aspirin
Baking Powder
Bread
Butter
Cake Mix
Cheese
Chutney
Coffee
Cream
Fish
Fish Paste

Flour
Fruit
Ice Cream
Jam
Margarine
Meat
Meat Paste
Milk
Milk (evaporated)
Pepper
Pudding Mixture

Salad Cream
Sauce
Soft Drink
Soup
Table Jelly
Tea
Tomato Ketchup
Vegetables (preserved)
Vinegar
Whisky

(b) Sections 8 and 9. Food Unfit for Human Consumption

The examination, seizure and destruction of foodstuffs in terms of these sections of the Act are not normally functions which are onerous or particularly difficult in this County but the destruction and devastation brought by the abnormal gale of 14th/15th January created one problem in this field.

The widespread failure of electricity supplies in the area resulted in power being off in many of the landward districts for periods varying from twelve hours or less to three days or more with resultant defrosting of the contents of deep freeze cabinets, both commercial and domestic. This defreezing of foodstuffs creates conditions in which bacterial proliferation may recommence and, having occurred, necessitates the affected foods being regarded as unfit for human consumption.

As the local health authority's powers and duties under these sections relate solely to foodstuffs sold, for sale, intended for sale, or in preparation or storage for sale, no action, unfortunately, could be taken in the case of domestic units beyond giving advice when requested. In the case of commercial deep-freeze units, however, these, where known, were visited and the contents checked. To give a sound and consistent judgment in such circumstances was difficult particularly as this was of necessity based on inference, the majority of the affected foods having been refrozen before they could be inspected therefore demonstrating none of the physical characteristics which normally accompany spoilage and serve as criteria for condemnation. The proprietors concerned, however, were in almost every case very co-operative and understandably anxious that their customers should not be put at risk. Finally the undernoted foodstuffs were removed and destroyed:

					Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Meat	....	....	....	....	—	3	23	5
Poultry	....	....	....	....	1	1	19	11
Fish	....	....	....	....	2	2	3	6
Vegetables	....	....	....	....	3	3	4	15
Fruit	....	....	....	....	—	1	15	6
Pastry and Baked Products	....	....	....	....	—	1	14	14½
Miscellaneous Food Stuffs	....	....	....	....	—	—	25	4
					9	2	22	13½

Ice Cream and Frozen Confectionery—78 gallons

Apart from this a further 20 lbs. consignment of cooked ham was condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year.

NEW FOOD AND DRUGS LEGISLATION

Artificial Sweeteners in Food (Scotland) Regulations, 1967

These came fully into operation on 1st January, 1968.

They:

(a) specify the artificial sweetening agents which may be used in sweetening tablets and in human food.

(b) lay down the compositional requirements for sweetening tablets.

(c) make requirements as to the naming and description of artificial sweetening agents.

(d) prescribe standards of purity for these products and,

(e) empower local authorities to deal with artificial sweeteners which do not comply with the Regulations or any foodstuffs containing them as food unfit for human consumption.

Imported Food (Scotland) Regulations, 1968

These came into effect on 1st August, 1968, replacing and consolidating previous legislation on imported foodstuffs. Their purpose is to protect the public from the importation of foodstuffs in any way unfit for human consumption. They provide *inter alia* for the right of access to and examination and sampling of imported foodstuffs at ports, airports and elsewhere for authorised officers of the local authorities and lay down the method of liaison between these officers and customs officers in enforcing the legislation.

Skimmed Milk with Non-Milk Fat (Scotland) Amendment Regulations, 1968

These came into operation on 26th September, 1968, and grant to four more products the exemption already given by the principal 1960 Regulations to similar products.

FOOD HYGIENE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS, 1959 to 1966

Miss Jean Arthur, the County Milk Officer, was formally appointed during the year as Food Hygiene Officer and underwent a concentrated course of instruction at Edinburgh University's Bacteriological Department and Edinburgh Corporation Health Department to equip her for her duties. Since her appointment she has allocated a portion of her time to food hygiene duties, has drawn up a register of involved premises and has carried out routine inspections of food handling practices in these, giving advice as required.

With regard to the structural condition of food premises the most common shortcomings found are the absence of hand-washing facilities within the food preparation areas, although these are normally provided in water closets and/or elsewhere on the premises, the tendency to use soft wood benches and preparation surfaces, and the failure to replace worn floor coverings. When brought to the notice of the proprietors, however, I am glad to say that there is usually a ready acceptance of the need to attend to these matters.

As I have said so often before, however, the real difficulties in achieving a high standard of commercial food hygiene lie in the practices of the individual food handler. This is a problem of education and training and one not open, I fear, to instant solution. There is in the catering trade, it seems to me, a vicious circle of indifferent to poor working conditions with indifferent to poor wages attracting indifferent to poor workers resulting in indifferent to poor personal hygiene practices. The local authority can only do so much to break this circle—it is difficult if not impossible to bring home the dangers of bacterial food poisoning even at an elementary level to personnel ill-equipped to receive the message and indeed disinterested in it—there will have to be more involvement by the Government, by the trade itself, and by the public before commercial food hygiene in this tourist-orientated country approaches the standard we have a right to expect. At the moment, the Food Hygiene Officer finds that food handlers and management alike almost universally believe that the detergents they are adding to wash-up waters have sterilant properties (ignorance or misrepresentation by commercial travellers?) and that washing utensils in hand-hot water is adequate to secure their sterility. To overcome such unawareness is, of course, an advance—but it leaves a long, long way to go.

Inspections of food retailing vehicles were made during the year in terms of the Food Hygiene (Scotland) Amendment Regulations, 1966. The purpose-made vehicles, particularly those of the travelling shop variety, were found generally to conform to the requirements of the Regulations as to structure, protection of the foodstuffs, provision of ventilation, hand-washing facilities, etc. The nature of this rural area, however, with its widespread but sparse population, its long, tortuous and in some cases poorly surfaced access roads to hill farms encourages, indeed necessitates, the use by small traders of 5 cwt.-10 cwt. vans not particularly adapted for the sale of foodstuffs. Likewise, while the carriage of such commodities as paraffin oil, firelighters, disinfectants, etc., in a food vehicle is obviously undesirable, to prohibit this practice would inevitably deprive isolated shepherds' cottages and the like of necessary supplies. Reliance has to be put on the trader to apply his common sense in these cases and fortunately this is not often misplaced. Merely to apply the Regulations to the letter of the law where these rural services are concerned would certainly result in their withdrawal which is not the object of the exercise.

During the year plans for new premises to provide storage and preparation facilities for a mobile fish and chip bar in Peebles were approved, a new cafe was opened in Walkerburn in converted dairy shop premises and substantial alterations to improve food preparation, dining facilities and sanitary accommodation were carried out in two hotels. The Department's advice was taken and requirements met in all cases.

When requested, illustrated talks on general food hygiene were given to women's organisations and I take this opportunity to say that the department will be glad to continue this practice and to provide films, arrange exhibitions etc., on this subject.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Broughton Slaughterhouse

This is now the only slaughterhouse in operation in the County, public or private. Owned and operated by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation (Meat) Ltd., it continues to deal solely in sheep for the London "export" market, the carcasses and offal being transported there in road vehicles of specialised construction.

During the 1968 slaughter season—January/March and August/December—the through-put was 66,793 sheep, being an increase of 1300 over that of the previous year. The average daily kill was 522.

The drainage effluent from the premises including a large diluted blood content continued as in past years to be collected in a central sump and pumped by automatic equipment from there via a pipeline and distributor gun over surrounding grazing pasture. Once again this practice gave no cause for complaint. Should in the future, however, the land become soured or public health nuisance conditions arise, the proprietors would be faced with the task of providing an alternative means of disposal satisfactory to the Tweed River Purification Board and to the County Council. Although, as will be seen in the appropriate section of this Report, the latter body in considering the provision of a sewerage system and disposal plant to serve the village of Broughton and its environs, so heavy is the biochemical load of the slaughterhouse effluent it is inevitable that the Council would require the proprietors to treat this extensively before the final discharge could be accepted into the public system.

Mr John Foster, by sanction of the Secretary of State in terms of Regulation 18 of the Food (Meat Inspection) (Scotland) Regulations, 1961, continued to act as Meat Inspector for the County Council and all carcasses so inspected were marked with the official stamp in accordance with the Scottish Home and Health Department's Food Circular No. 2/1967.

Food (Meat Inspection) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations, 1963

The undernoted charges for the inspection of meat fixed by the County Council in 1963 continued without revision in 1968, viz:

Cattle	....	....	....	2/6 per animal inspected.
Calves and Pigs	....	....	....	9d per animal inspected.
Sheep	....	....	....	4d per animal inspected.

The income from this source in the year amounted to £1,113 4s 4d attributable to the inspection of 66,793 sheep at Broughton Slaughterhouse.

Slaughterhouses Act, 1954

No new Certificates of Registration in terms of the above Act were issued during the year.

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Scotland) Regulations, 1955

Broughton Slaughterhouse was inspected from time to time during the slaughter season to ensure that these Regulations, designed to secure humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughter of animals at slaughterhouses, were being complied with. No breach of the Regulations was observed on these occasions.

Slaughter of Animals (Scotland) Acts, 1928-54

Eleven slaughtermen were granted licences in terms of the above Acts. All licences were limited to sheep slaughter utilising electrical stunning equipment.

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection Statistics

The following table gives the number of sheep slaughtered together with condemnations and disease conditions necessitating condemnations:

Condemnations				Sheep and Lambs
1. Septicaemia (Fevered Carcasses)				
Whole carcasses condemned	....	....	....	9
2. Bruising and Injury				
(a) Whole carcasses unfit	....	....	....	—
(b) Carcasses of which some part was unfit	....			19
3. All other Diseases				
(a) Whole carcasses condemned	....	....	....	27
(b) Carcasses of which some part was condemned				195
(c) Organs only unfit	....	....	....	4801
Total of diseased animals slaughtered as shown at 1 to 3 above	....	....	....	5051
Total number of animals slaughtered	....	....	....	66793

Food (Preparation and Distribution of Meat) (Scotland) Regulations, 1963-67

Regulation 56 of these Regulations empowered the Secretary of State to appoint a day after which it would be an offence to transport unwrapped meat by road otherwise than in a meat compartment or a meat container.

The Regulations include the following definitions:

“Meat Compartment”—an enclosed compartment being, or forming part of, the body of a vehicle and designed for use for the transportation of meat placed in bulk in it, being a compartment the walls of which are of rigid construction and access to which, whether by doors or otherwise, is not obtained from or through any other part of the vehicle.

“Meat Container”—a container designed for use in the transportation of meat placed in bulk in it and access to which is obtained by means of closing doors or any other closing device but which is not a vehicle or part of a vehicle.

“Wrapped Meat”—meat which is completely wrapped in closely woven material or other material providing similar protection from

contamination whether with or without an additional inner covering. "Unwrapped Meat"—meat other than wrapped meat or wrapped frozen offal.

The day appointed was 1st July, 1968, and I drew the attention of all butchers in the County to this by circular letter with which I enclosed appropriate excerpts from the Regulations dealing in particular with the above matter, the general provisions relating to personal hygiene of meat handlers and the requirement to notify certain infectious diseases.

There is a regrettable tendency for some butchers to regard the boot of a saloon car as a meat compartment and while it is easy to say that this is not "designed for use for the transportation of meat placed in bulk in it" as required by the definition, the courts may yet have to rule as to whether a supply of offal in suitably protected receptacles consigned to a small business in a clean and otherwise empty car boot constitutes a breach of the Regulations.

These difficulties notwithstanding, the Regulations are bringing about a much-needed and long-awaited improvement in unwrapped meat transportation.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926

My services as "Official Sampler" for the County were not requested during the year.

Four test samples of feeding stuffs were procured in my capacity as inspector under the above Act. These are listed below and proved in all cases on analysis to be genuine, complying with their respective warranties.

Baby Chick Crumbs	Layers Mash (2)
Layers Pellets	

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

1968 was a quiet year in the County for dysentery outbreaks, only one case of sonne dysentery requiring visitation.

Similarly it is pleasing to record that there was no major occurrence of food poisoning although three cases were suspected and two confirmed. The suspected case involved a family of three adults who suffered a mild infection of staphylococcus aureus. Although a prepared meat was suspected of being the cause, this eventually was disproved and the source was not traced. The other cases were infected by a strain of salmonella typhi-murium associated with cattle infections and, as they involved farm workers, the inference as to where the disease originated is obvious. In view of the implicit danger to the public from drinking infected milk (one of the farms involved being a dairy farm whose product is not pasteurised before sale) bacteriological tests were carried out on the stock and an infected calf disposed of.

1968 was an important year in this sphere, however, in one respect. It saw the introduction of the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968, Section 71 of which makes special provision for the

payment of compensation by a local authority for stopping employment of a contact with a view to preventing the spread of any infectious disease or any food poisoning to which the Food and Drugs (Scotland) Act, 1956, applies. This replaces the somewhat unsatisfactory and unofficial arrangement where, on appeal, the County Council previously made ex gratia payments to such persons in order to have their co-operation in preventing the spread of infection.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS

Anthrax

Notices in terms of the Anthrax Order, 1938, were issued in respect of 82 animals which died in suspicious circumstances, the same number as in the previous year. In one case the disease was confirmed by the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the infected carcase was destroyed on the premises which were disinfected in accordance with the requirements of the Order under this Department's supervision.

Foot and Mouth Disease

No case of this disease was reported during the year.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957

When this Order was introduced in 1957 as a measure to prevent, in particular, the spread of foot and mouth disease by requiring the boiling of waste foods intended for feeding to certain animals and poultry and the licensing of the plant used for that purpose, two licences were issued. No revocations or additions have been made in 1968.

Fowl Pest

No case of this infection was reported in the County during 1968.

Swine Fever

No notices defining infected places were served during 1968.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

1. Staff

The day-to-day survey and destruction work continued to be carried out by the Council's Rat Catcher operating on a part-time basis (i.e. alternate weeks) and provided with a Morris Mini Minor van for transport.

2. Survey

Section 2 of the Act places a duty on the local authority to take such steps as they consider necessary "to secure as far as is practicable that their district is kept free from rats and mice." In fulfilment of this duty the rat catcher carried out 1,109 inspections, particularly of properties which by their nature were the more likely to be infested.

3. Agreement System

The Agreement System whereby rat destruction services are made available at reasonable cost to occupiers of land within the County continued during the year at a charge of 8d per £ of the gross valuation of the property treated subject to a minimum payment of £5.

At the end of the year there were in force 26 agreements relating to 28 properties mostly agricultural in nature. 597 visits were made to these properties as a matter of routine and they received treatment as and when required. The income from these agreements will, it is estimated, be approximately £286 at 15th May, 1969.

4. Agricultural Properties Outwith the Agreement System

Certain occupiers of land prefer to have their properties disinfested as the need arises on an hour-to-hour basis rather than by contract. 48 visits to 45 properties were made in this way and accounts based on an hourly rate of 8/- will be sent at the end of the financial year.

5. Properties Specially Liable to Infestation

Included in this category are 7 refuse tips, 4 sewage disposal plants, 1 slaughterhouse and its allied trades and 5 poultry rearing premises. 259 visits were made to these premises, including survey and treatment as and when required.

6. Dwellinghouses

These together with non-profitmaking local authority properties receive free survey and treatment on request, a practice recommended by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. 46 such properties, both private and local authority-owned were inspected, all receiving treatment. 118 visits were made.

7. Business and Industrial Premises

Nine such premises were inspected and treated. These included 4 shops, 1 hotel, 3 tweed mills, 1 works canteen, 1 workers camp. This necessitated a total of 43 visits.

8. Miscellaneous Properties

Three schools were inspected on request and minor infestations dealt with. The number of visits was 7.

9. Pests other than Rats and Mice

Although the Act restricts the duties of local authorities specifically to the eradication of rats and mice it has been the accepted practice here for the rat catcher to deal with infestations of wasps, rabbits, moles, etc., where they occurred, and where his assistance is requested and available. This practice was continued during 1968 and three cases of wasps, six of moles, one of rabbits, three of bees, two of stoats and one of weasels were dealt with.

10. Destruction Methods

In dealing with rats and mice, the blood anti-coagulant poison "Warfarin" is still found to be the most effective in this area, the concentration for rats being 0.005% in a soaked whole wheat base and for mice 0.025% in a dry pinhead oatmeal base, although, in the case of the latter where infestations occur in dwellinghouses, it has often been found more satisfactory to use the acute poison alpha chloralose. In no case to date has there been any evidence in this County of the warfarin resistance being experienced in the Forth/Clyde valley which in that area has necessitated the introduction of an alternative anti-coagulant poison "coumatetraly."

The technique normally adopted in eradicating wasps, if inside occupied premises, is to stun them sufficiently by means of an aerosol discharged "quick-knock-down" insecticide containing pybuthrin to enable the nest to be destroyed. In cases where a bike is buried in e.g. a grass banking, the normal approach is by the use of Cymag, an agricultural preparation of hydrocyanic acid gas.

Rabbits are dealt with by trapping or gassing with Cymag as above.

Mole killing is achieved by the use of the poison strychnine hydrochloride of which I hold a $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. supply on licence.

HOUSING

Local Authority and S.S.H.A. Houses

(a) *General Needs*. No houses in this category were erected by the County Council during the year. Those approved for erection at West Linton and those approved in principle for erection at Eddleston were not commenced.

(b) *Glasgow Overspill*. No further houses in this category were erected during the year by the Scottish Special Housing Association.

Private Enterprise Houses

The following were erected during or were under construction at the end of the year:

	Apartments per house 2 or less	Housing Assocs. other than S.S.H.A.	For sale	For letting	Total
Completed during 1968					
	3	—	—	1	1
	4	—	1	2	3
	5 or more	—	2	—	2
	Total	—	3	3	6

Under construction at end of 1968: 8 houses.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950—Part VII (as Amended)—Improvement Grants

Six applications for this form of grant were received and approved by the County Council during the year. These related in all cases to the modernisation of sub-standard properties. The total approved expenditure amounted to £11,099 4s 7d and the grant element to £2,900.

Since the inception of the Improvement Grant Scheme in 1949, one hundred and fifty-six applications relating to the conversion

and/or improvement of one hundred and sixty-two houses have been lodged. Of these one has been refused and fourteen withdrawn. The overall expenditure approved by the County Council for grant purposes amounts to £181,620 and the grant-aid promised and/or paid to £55,178, 75% of the loan charges on which is met by the Exchequer and the remainder by the ratepayer.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959—(as Amended)—Part II—Standard Grants

No new applications under these provisions were received during the year.

Since the inception of this scheme in 1960 only twelve applications have been made to the County Council and of these two have not been proceeded with. The overall expenditure approved for grant purposes approximates £4,309 and the total grants promised and/or paid £1,417, this latter being divided between central and local government in the same way as with the discretionary improvement grants.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952—Section 3

No applications for grant-aid under the County Council's Scheme in terms of this Act were approved during the year. This Scheme provides grant-in-aid against the provision by private parties of new houses for occupation by agricultural workers, the grants being lump payments amounting to:

£240 in respect of a 3-apartment house, and

£300 in respect of a 4-apartment or larger house,

subject to conditions stipulating type, dimensions and facilities to be provided.

Since the inception of this Scheme in 1953 twenty-three applications have been approved by the County Council, of which four have not been proceeded with. These applications have resulted in the provision of twenty-one houses, the total grant sum involved being £6,060 of which, as with the other housing grants referred to above, 75% is borne by the taxpayer and 25% by the ratepayer.

Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts

One hundred and sixty-five farmhouses and farm cottages have been improved under the Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts since their inception, 9 by conversion, while a further 26 new houses have been, or are being, erected. The improvements range from minor repairs, installation of electricity, water supplies and drainage systems to full-scale modernisation.

Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954, and Rent Act, 1957

These Acts, which enable tenants in certain circumstances to withhold increases of rent imposed by their landlords, have not been made use of in this County and no applications were received during 1968 for a Certificate of Disrepair.

Housing (Scotland) Acts, 1950, 1962 and 1966, and Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954—Unfit Houses

One unfit house noted in last year's Report as having been made the subject of a Demolition Order was demolished on the tenant being rehoused. One house was represented to the County Council as unfit for human habitation and incapable of being rendered so fit at reasonable cost. As a result of this representation a Demolition Order was made. A subsequent application by the owners for a Suspension Order was granted.

Two roadside cottages were demolished by the County Council in carrying out a road improvement scheme.

Housing (Financial Provisions) (Scotland) Act, 1968

This Act came into operation on 31st August, 1968, Part I relating to financial assistance by the central government in respect of housing accommodation provided by local authorities and other bodies, Part II to financial assistance by local authorities in respect of housing accommodation privately provided or improved (discretionary and standard grants and grants towards the provision of new houses for agricultural workers, etc.) Part III to general financial provisions in connection with the various Housing Acts and Part IV dealing with supplemental matters, interpretation, etc. In effect, the Act consolidated the financial provisions in the field of housing hitherto broadcast through various legislation, introduced certain amendments but left the grant amounts payable to private persons for the provision of houses by conversion or improvement unaltered.

BUILDINGS AUTHORITY

Eighty applications for warrant were submitted to the buildings Authority during the year. These related to the following works, viz.:

(1) Erection of New Houses	7
(2) Extension of and alterations to dwellinghouses	31
(3) Extension of and alterations to hotels	5
(4) Extension to shop	1
(5) Extension to church	1
(6) Extension and alterations to hall	1
(7) Alterations to mills	2
(8) Erection of garages	12
(9) Erection of domestic garage, store and workshop	1
(10) Erection of office and weighbridge	1
(11) Erection of poultry house....	1
(12) Erection of fuel storage tanks	2
(13) Erection of greenhouse	1
(14) Erection of porches	5
(15) Erection of non-exempt agricultural buildings	6
(16) Demolition	1
(17) Change of use	1
(18) Conversion	1

In three cases there were subsequent applications for amendment warrants.

As a result of applications made to him in terms of Section 4 of the Building (Scotland) Act, 1959, by intending developers who found themselves unable for one reason or another to meet all the requirements of the Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations, 1963/67, the Secretary of State issued four directions to the buildings authority waiving conditionally the appropriate regulations.

These related to:

(1) Internal alterations to house	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
(2) Fire escapes at hotels	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
(3) Means of escape from office block	....	....	....	....	....	....	1

Building (Scotland) Act, 1959—Part III—Dangerous Buildings

As another result of the abnormal gale on the night of 14th/15th January already referred to earlier in this Report, in my capacity as Master of Works I had to serve two notices in terms of Section 13 of the above Act to secure in one case the demolition and in the other the rendering secure of two buildings.

Similarly, by informal action, I secured the safety of a dangerous, high garden wall which abutted a pathway to which the public had right of access.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Three applications for Site Licences in terms of the above Act came before the County Council during 1968. The first related to a proposed holiday site for 65 caravan complete with sanitary annexe, laundry facilities, site shop, tarmacadam road system with street lighting, water and fire points, car parks and recreational area. This was granted for the months April to October inclusive subject to certain conditions. The second application was in respect of a residential caravan with all modern amenities to be sited by the owner beside his mink farm. This again was granted for a two-year period to accord with the terms of the planning permission given. The third application referred again to a holiday caravan but no action was taken by the Council as planning permission in this case was refused.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

Three applications for approval in terms of the Council's Byelaws relating to Tents, Vans and Sheds were lodged in respect of the extension of two holiday chalets and the erection of a new structure of this type.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Data as to the action taken in terms of this Act is provided in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The number of premises registered in terms of the Act was as follows:

Class of Premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspection during the year	Number of Employees
Offices	—	10	8	21
Retail shops	—	8	8	21
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	5	5	28
Totals	—	23	21	70
			Males	31
			Females	39

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

One establishment at which a business of providing accommodation for cats is carried on was licensed in the Landward Area of the County during the year.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964

No riding establishments were licensed in the Landward Area of the County during 1968.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897—NUISANCES

In this rural County it is rare that there is anything worthy of note to report under this heading which causes so much trouble and work to my less fortunate colleagues in urban districts.

This year, however, a condition arose which entailed many visits and much investigation and occupied the time of many people.

The condition complained of related to a smell. The smell was reported by a large number of residents in one of the villages who claimed that they could scarcely live in their houses for the smell in some cases of sewage, in others of gas (despite the fact that it is many years since there was a gas system in the village) and in yet others of fuel oil or petrol. All were agreed that the smell was intermittent as indeed the evidence showed on investigation. Having ruled out the gas theory we were left with sewage or petroleum products. For a time the local school drain was suspect but this was eventually exonerated as was the main sewer on which, unfortunately for us, we had just finished effecting alterations. Convinced now of the petroleum theory we invited the local Petroleum

Officer as a safety precaution to check the area with his explosives meter but no significant readings were obtained anywhere—in complainants' houses, sewers, street gullies, telephone cable ducts, etc. Reassured on this point, we exposed the main sewer in the neighbourhood and there, for the first time, saw irrefutable evidence of the presence of petroleum, the characteristic iridescence later confirmed by soil analysis. Although no one ever admitted it, petroleum had been spilt in some quantity some place and had travelled along the wall of the sewer being the line of least resistance and seeped through the gravel sub-soil of the district into and under the shallow founds and even in some cases into the defective drains of the old properties wherein the latent heat caused it to vaporise and emit its pungent fumes. In the circumstances, beyond advising those affected of the position, there was little that could be done to remedy matters and reliance had to be placed on natural dispersal, evaporation and weathering to abate the very real nuisance which after a month or two of course they did.

BURIAL GROUNDS

The maintenance of burial grounds throughout the Landward Area of the County is the responsibility of the County Supervisor of Buildings. All grounds in regular use are well maintained while those not in use are kept tidy and in reasonable repair within the limits of finance and labour.

WATER SUPPLY

General

In accordance with the terms of the Water (Scotland) Act, 1968, the County Council ceased to be a local water authority on 15th May, 1968, its function from that date being taken over by the South-East of Scotland Water Board. To assist the Board during the formative part of its establishment, however, the Council agreed to continue to act for a short period as its agent within the Landward Area of the County, and consequently my duties as County Water Officer also continued although since May there has been a gradual handing over of records and duties.

Accordingly I shall in future confine myself under this heading to reporting what sampling of supplies has been done. The full Annual Report of the Water Board will presumably cover all other aspects of water supply in the area and will be provided to the County Council.

Sampling

Samples for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination were procured from public supplies as a routine and private supplies on request or where application for grant-aid in terms of Part VII of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, or the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Acts, 1941 and 1944, involved the testing of new sources of supply.

Twenty-three bacteriological and chemical samples were taken as follows:

	Number of Samples Taken	
	Chemical	Bacteriological
Investigational Samples (Housing Grants, suspected pollution, new sources, etc.)	16	16
Routine Public Supplies	7	7

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

West Linton

The new plant serving the village and Broomlee Camp School which came into service in April, 1967, continued to function well during 1968 producing an effluent well within the standard prescribed by the Tweed River Purification Board. It was not found necessary to withdraw sludge from the digestion tanks to the sludge beds so the drying capability of these is not yet known and on that to some extent the success of the plant depends. As was foreseen the amount of time allowed for plant maintenance, i.e., the upkeep of the mechanism and of the extensive grounds had to be increased so that now the operator works three full days and two-half days in the working week with visits on Saturday and Sunday to inspect and carry out certain essential lubrication. With this increase in time he has been able to give more attention to the grounds which are now in very good trim. The Landward Health and Housing Committee inspected the plant during the summer.

Broughton

The consulting engineers appointed by the County Council to prepare a scheme to provide Broughton village and environs with a sewerage system and sewage disposal plant submitted their preliminary report which with reservations as to the siting of the latter was accepted in principle by the Council. The plant envisaged, because of its technical advantages in a community like that of Broughton, is of the package contact stabilisation variety, a functioning example of which was visited near Hexham by a delegation from the Council. We were impressed with what we saw and the views we heard expressed and I can see no reason why this fairly new and non-traditional method of sewage purification should not serve Broughton well. To the cost of this plant, of course, falls to be added that of sewerage the village which because of its geography entails expensive lengths of small diameter, relatively "unproductive" sewer, a pumping station and the like and all this makes the capital cost of the project extremely high, so much so that the Council before proceeding further is to have exploratory talks with the appropriate central government departments.

Assuming the Broughton's scheme goes ahead, that will leave outstanding schemes at Eddleston, Skirling, probably Romanno Bridge and Traquair and possibly an improvement scheme at Carlops.

Seven new septic tank installations to serve new or altered properties throughout the Landward Area of the County were inspected and approved during the year, all to this department's model specification and to the satisfaction of the appropriate River Purification Board.

Sewerage (Scotland) Act, 1968

This Act received the Royal Assent during the year but will not come into effect until a date appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland.

It brings together in amended form all legislation governing the rights and duties of local authorities, private persons, dischargers of trade effluents, etc., in draining individual properties and districts and will have far-reaching effects in the future.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

General

Normal scavenging duties throughout the Landward Area of the County and a small part of Selkirkshire continued during the year to be operated by a service of two 16/24 cub. yard mechanical compression refuse collection vehicles each having a crew of two. Each vehicle is now provided with washing facilities in the form of a small stainless-steel sink unit supplied with hot water from the engine cooling system.

The position with regard to refuse disposal unfortunately also remained unaltered in that the small stop-gap extension of Deep-sykehead Refuse Tip had not formally been granted to the County Council at the end of the year although there is hope that it will be—at a price. Assuming the department does acquire this it will afford the breathing space of a year or two in which finally to overcome this apparently impossible task of obtaining a suitable tip with a reasonable life-span. To consider mechanical disposal methods, incineration or pulverisation, desirable as they are, for a rural area such as this, is wishful thinking.

Litter

This year the County Council has taken a great step forward in this direction by authorising the establishment of a Litter Service comprising a refuse collection vehicle with a crew of two to uplift litter and clean up lay-byes and picnic areas throughout the County. The service was started in July and 300 litter bins costing approximately £6 10s each were purchased initially. All public roads are covered at least once per week and the busier areas receive attention two and even three times per week. As a result I am confident that this County will bear comparison with any in the country so far as the cleanliness of its highways and byeways is concerned, and this in an area zoned in the County Development Plan as one of great landscape value having considerable tourist attraction as it should be. At the same time, it is apposite to comment that as

with other aspects of life the litter service is affected by Parkinson's Law for it is already apparent that the litter (which includes without definition anything from garden refuse, through tradesmen's discards to unwanted mattresses and easy chairs) increases in accordance with the number of bins provided for it.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It would be remiss of me to complete this Report without acknowledging gratefully the assistance so readily afforded me in the execution of my duties by the members of the County Council both individually and corporately, by Dr John Riddell, O.B.E., Medical Officer of Health, by my colleagues in this and other local authorities and by the officers of the central government.

I should also like to take this opportunity of offering my personal thanks to my staff and departmental employees without whose loyal assistance I could not have carried out the functions of my office.

I. R. M. GUTHRIE,
County Sanitary Inspector.

COUNTY BUILDINGS,
PEEBLES.

